



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733**

October 3, 2012

Adam Zerrenner
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Austin Ecological Services Field Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Mr. Zerrenner:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for the authorization of incidental take and implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) developed by the Edwards Aquifer Recovery Implementation Program. The DEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts that may occur if the application is approved and the HCP is implemented.

EPA rates the DEIS as "LO" i.e., EPA has "lack of objections" to the preferred action. The EPA's Rating System Criteria can be found here:
<http://www.epa.gov/oecaerth/nepa/comments/ratings.html>. Our classification will be published on the EPA website, www.epa.gov, according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the CAA to inform the public of our views on the proposed Federal action.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office two copies of the FEIS, and an internet link, when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Federal Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Beginning October 1, 2012, you must file your EIS using EPA's *e-NEPA Electronic Filing* at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/submiteis/index.html>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mike Jansky of my staff at jansky.michael@epa.gov or 214-665-7451 for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Smith", is written over the word "Sincerely," and extends to the right.

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination